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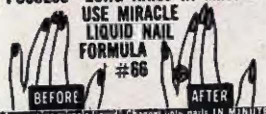

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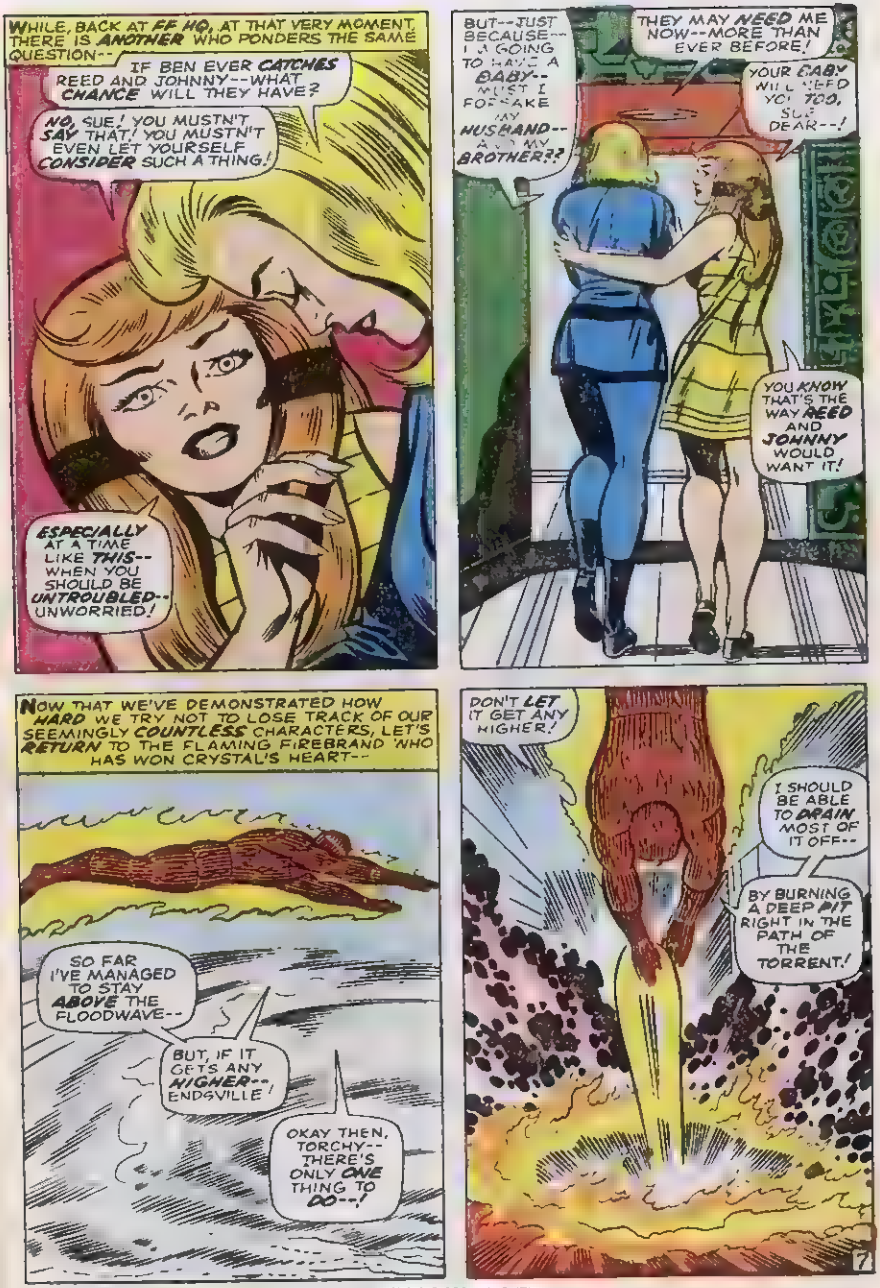

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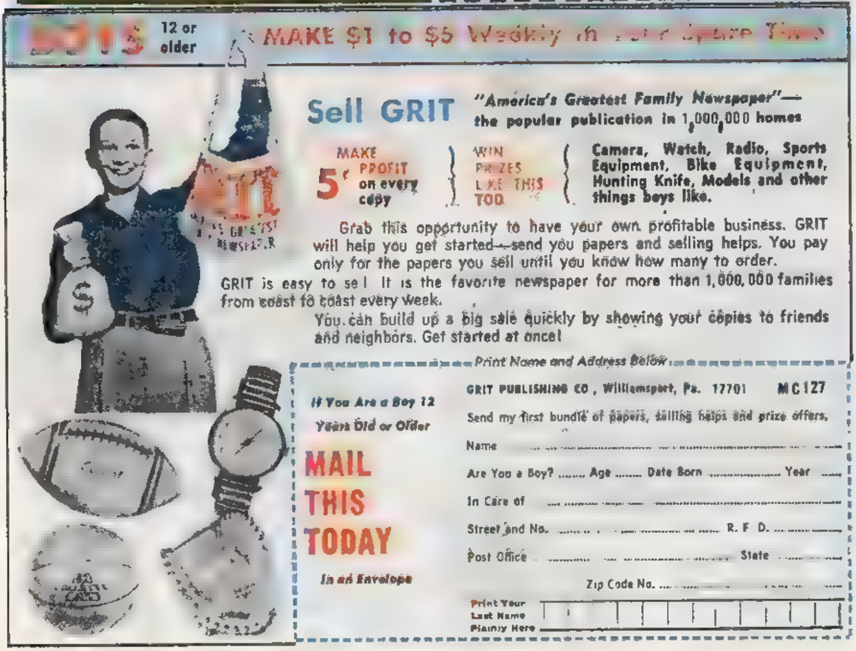

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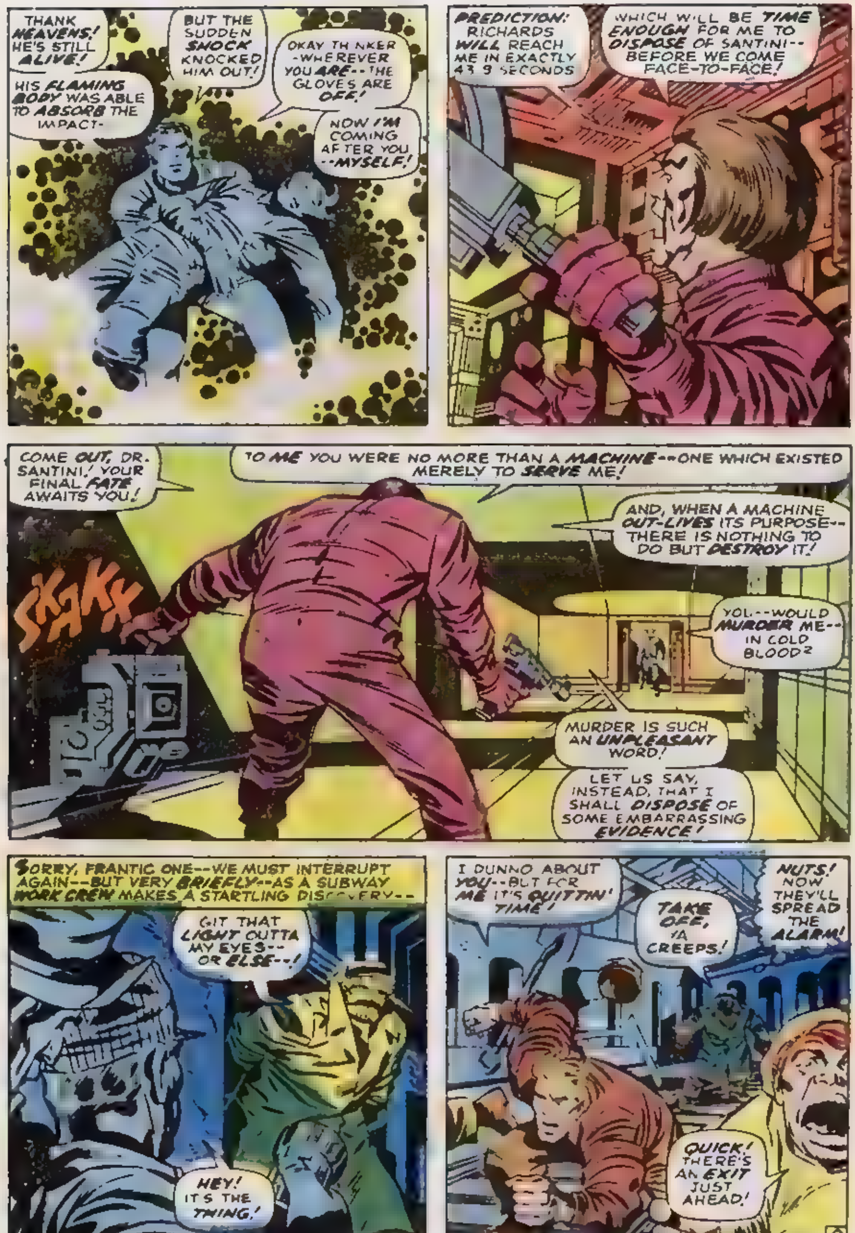

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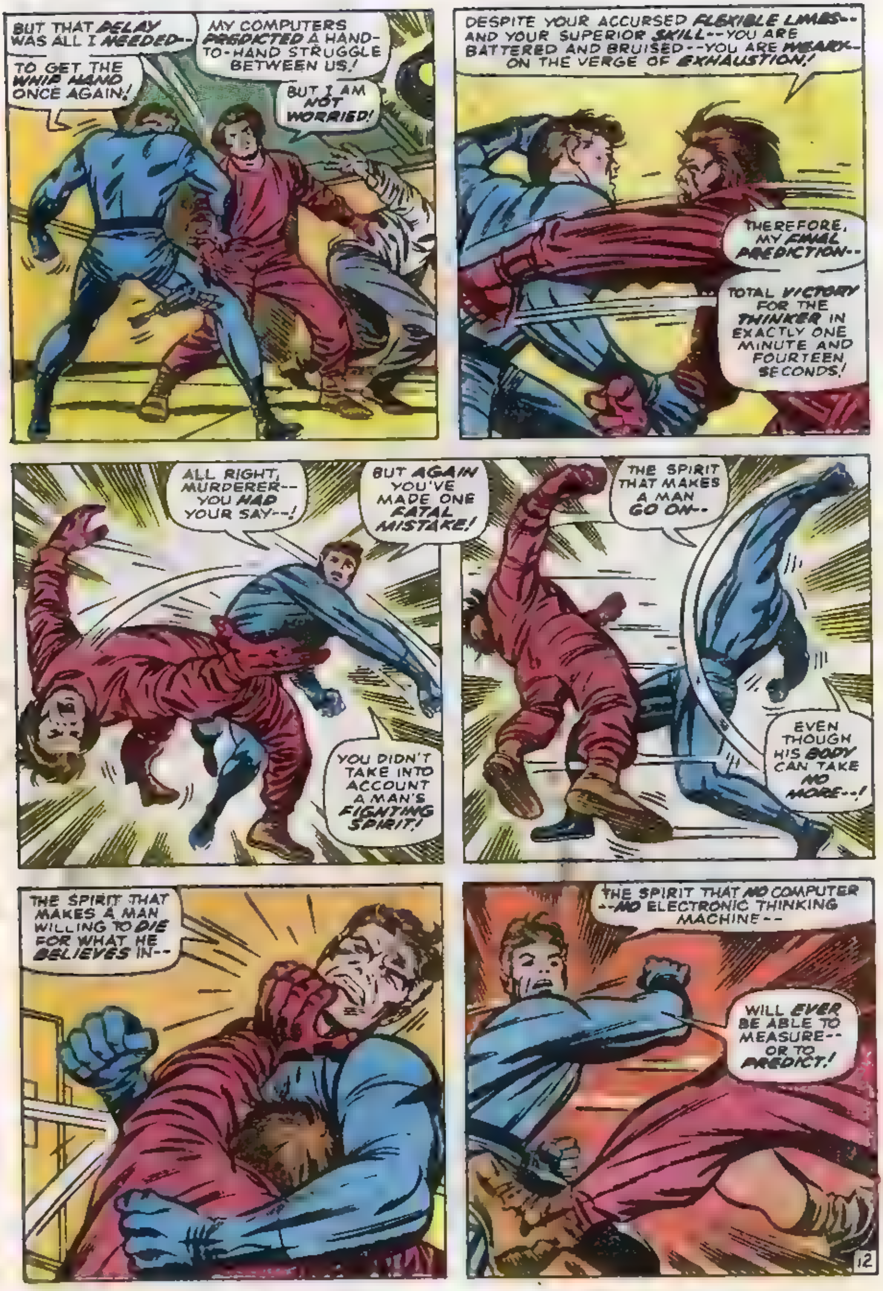

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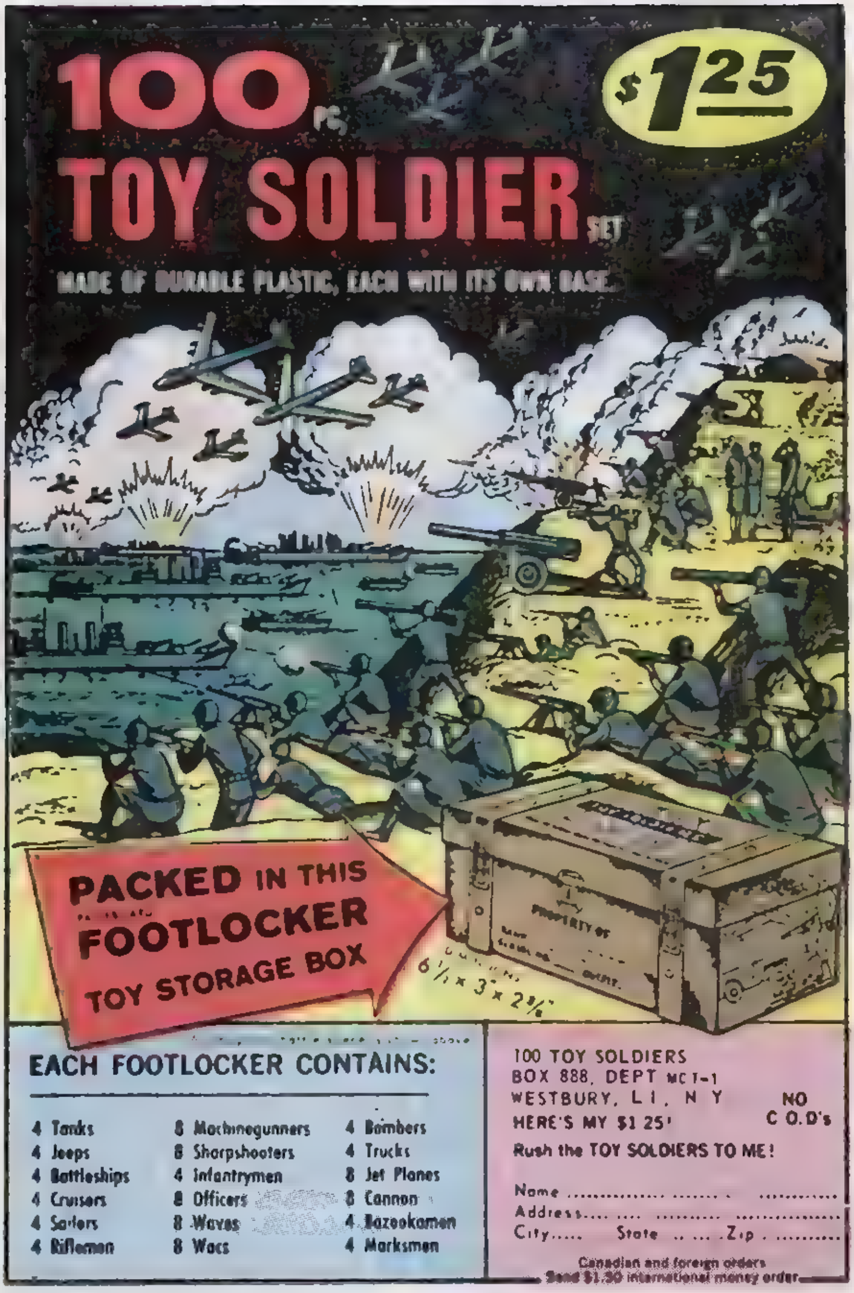

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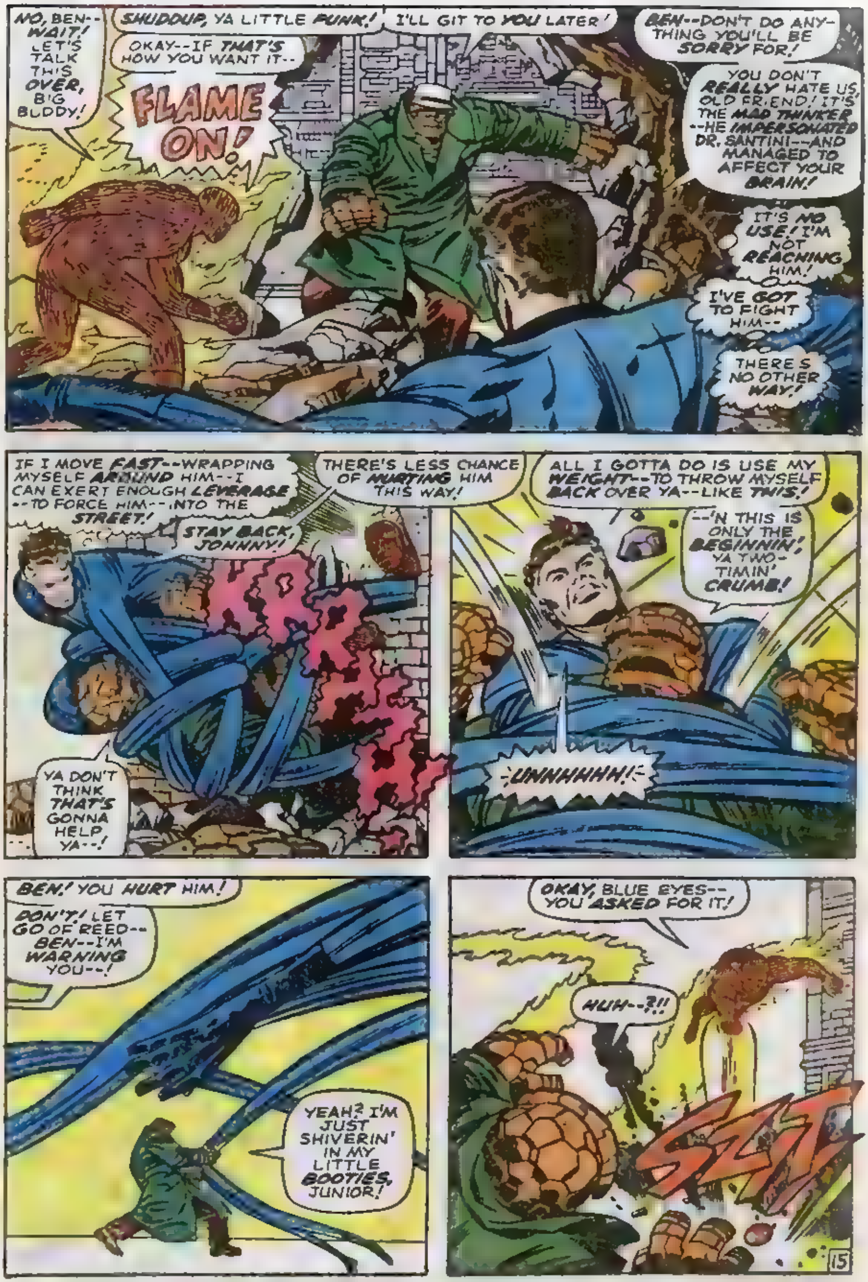

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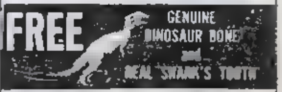

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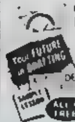

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MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

WHO SAYS THIS ISN'T THE MARVEL AGE OF BATTY BULLETINS?

ITEM! By the time you read these imperishable words, our two Saturday morning full-color half-hour cartoon spectaculars, FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN, should be knockin' 'em dead from border-to-border and coast-to-coast on the far-flung ABC television network! And by the way, even if you don't live in the continental United States, write to your local TV station anyway, asking when Spidey and the FF will be seen in your area. (If you live in Red China, think how that'll shake 'em up!) When the voice of Marveldom Assembled speaks, even the airwaves must quiver in awe! -

ITEM! Speaking of the airwaves, for those of you in the N. Y.-New Jersey listening area, who might have missed our leader's radio interview with Joel Scott over F.M. station WFMU (91.1 megacycles), it was such a smash that it'll be rebroadcast at 9:00 PM, Oct. 16th. So if you get a chance, give a listen, huh? Smiley will be talking about our favorite subject — Marvel mags!

ITEM! We received a letter recently that all you face-fronters will get a kick out of. Without any further ado, here 'tis —

> Dear Stan,
> Remember the controversy when you introduced that pinnacle of imperfection, Irving Forbush? Everyone asked "Who is he?" Now I (with the help of my complete collection of your Marvel masterpieces) have solved the mystery! He's a character who's appeared, in various guises, in many of your earlier mags! For example, he was the owner of the clothing store which was wrecked by the Thing when Irv told him he had no clothes to fit him. (If you've forgotten, see FF #1). To continue, Forbush was the wrestler that Peter Parker first tried his spider powers on. (Take a squint at AMAZING FANTASY, #15). He was also the guy who neglected to push the "hold" button when scientist Bruce Banner spotted a young man on the field, in danger of being exposed to gamma rays. (HULK #1, natch). He was the private who got a soggy blanket tossed at his face when he tried to inform an irate Sgt. Fury that "Happy Sam" Sawyer wanted to see him. (A bit of nostalgia from SGT. FURY #2). Obviously, Irv was the first member of such illustrious organizations as "Kirby's Kast of Kharacters" (A little group you clued us in on in FF #19), and of the venerated MMMS as well. To sum it up, Irving Forbush is a caricature of all that is humorous, sad, optimistic, pessimistic, irreverent, and righteous in your publications, and in fact, the entire world. So, as long as the merry Marvel Bullpen keeps hanging loose, the world will be saved from the terrible plague of Brand Echh. I thank you. (Signed) Richard Vitone, 7517 W. Addison St., Chicago 60634, Ill.

Dick, we're rushing you a No-Prize on the double. Thy sagacious summary hath overwhelmed us one and all! But now that we all know Honest Irv's true identity, just tell us one thing - who is he?

ITEM! Guess who just produced a special surprise comic mag for the ABC Network—which features the FF and SPIDEY, among others? It's called AMERICA'S BEST TV COMICS, on sale at all newsstands, or send 25¢ to ABC Box 20, Detroit, Mich. (—End of commercial!)

ITEM! We just remembered! It's time to announce the second rank of Marveldom. Last ish we gave you the first rank, the title R.F.O. (Real Frantic One), to which any Believer is entitled, provided he or she (or it) buys a minimum of 3 Marvel mags each month. And now (Ta-ta-ta taaa, ta ta!) rank #2, Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), to be used with pride by any heroic one who has had at least one letter published in a Marvel mag. Stay tuned for our next ish when we'll fill you in on the title T.T.B..! It's a doozy!

ITEM: And now, before we get to our Soapbox section, just another reminder to the more playful pussycats among you that there's a whole kaboodle of Marvel toys, games, and novelties on sale at a store near you right now. (Unless you're rowing a kayak across the Pacific—in which case, wait'll next month). We're not trying to leave you penniless, but we get so many indignant letters from frenzied ones who berate us for not mentioning various items that are on sale, that we thought we'd wrap the whole thing up in a ball and let you have it all at once, like now! Excelsior!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Every so often we like to toss a completely unexpected, bombshell surprise at you. Well, we've got one for you now! We decided to mention it in this space, which is the most widely-read paragraph in all of comicdom, so that none of you will miss it. Just for kicks, yours truly and Genial Gene Colan have created a brand new superhero who we think is destined to become an overnight sensation. His name — CAPTAIN MARVEL!! We don't wanna say any more about him now, except to tell you that he's starring in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES. It's on sale right now! It's dramatic! It's daring! And it's different! Read it — then drop us a line telling how it grabs you. We're waiting on pins and needles for your reaction. And now, till we meet again be good to each other. Always remember — "Love thy neighbor" means—EVERYBODY! 'Nuff said!

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THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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NOT BRAND ECHH #5: This one's so great, we kept it on sale a second month for you! The greatest ish yet! Featuring the epic battles of the Bulk vs. the Thung, the Revengers vs. Charlie America, and — the sensation of the season — introducing: the frantic Forbush-Man!

SPIDER-MAN #56: If Spidey was hated and feared by the public before, what'll happen now — now, when he's actually fighting on the side of a more-deadly-than-ever Doc Ock? Even WE can't be sure Spidey will ever get out of this one!

AVENGERS #47: What's this? Captain America quits the Avengers? Hercules finds an awesome mystery upon fabled Olympus? Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch are captured after a desperate battle? And we're only charging 12¢? CHEEE!

X-MEN #39: With the fate of the entire world hanging in the balance, Marvel's mightiest mutants face a final showdown with Factor Three! Plus, the never-before-told "Origin of Cyclops! This is excitement unlimited!

DAREDEVIL #35: Even the fabulous FF have never been able to defeat him for good — and now, the Man Without Fear must battle the Trapster alone! But, how do you fight someone when he's already beaten you? It's a shocker!

THOR #147: Now, with the Thunder God's power at its lowest ebb — with his own father turned against him — with the police themselves unable to help — now — NOW — the mighty Thor must face the deadliest threat of all — Loki!!

SUSPENSE #97: Whiplash! His very name sends shivers down your spine! You'll meet him for the first time in this sensational Iron Man thriller! As for Captain America, he's got a real surprise for you — and for himself as well! All we have to do is mention three words — the Black Panther!

ASTONISH #99: Exiled and stripped of his throne, Namor desperately attempts to ward off an invasion of the surface by his own Atlantean Legions! And now, the best news of all — you'll see the incredible Hulk fight all the bad guys at once — and beat 'em, for a change! It's dynamite!

STRANGE TALES #164: You'll gasp in amazement when Doc Strange ventures into a world of nightmares to rescue the beauteous Victoria Bentley! And, as if that isn't enough, Nick Fury finds himself trapped in the lair of the Yellow Claw! This one's gotta shatter your senses!

SGT. FURY #49: The Howlers start the Allies on the long road to victory in the Pacific — as they fight their way across the blood-stained sands of Tarawa! Hooo boy — this is really the big one!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #12: The FF, the Hulk, Iron Man, and Doc Strange in some of their most agonizing adventures of all — in this, the Marvel Age of Comics! Color this one groovesville!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES — STARRING CAPTAIN MARVEL #12: You've been clamoring for something new — and here it is! A new superhero by two of the most talented pros of all! Certain to be a collectors' item the minute it's sold out! Don't dare miss it!

MARVEL TALES #17: The greatest in Mighty Marvel memorabilia starring Spidey, Torchy, Thor, and the wonderful Wasp — and all for only a quarter! Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of bombshell bargains?"

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

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Fantastic Four Fan Page

Send letters to: LEE and KIRBY
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NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

I'm an uncle! Why isn't Johnny? My sister was married at the same time as Reed and Sue — I even gave them an issue of F.F. ANNUAL #4 for a gift. I know that you said in a Spidey letter page that the Marvel characters are on a different scale of time than we are, but this is ridiculous. My niece will be an old woman before the third member of the Richards' family is out of diapers. If you keep up these continued stories there will never be a Fantastic Five. But on the slim chance that you do decide to give Reed and Sue a little bundle from the [illegible] before I begin to receive my old age pension, I have some suggestions. First of all, if the baby is a mutant and has an extra power, don't let it be the same as Reed's or Sue's. The cosmic rays affected each of the F.F. in a different way. Therefore, the baby should also be affected in a different way. Also, Sue should leave the F.F. for a while when she is in a weakened condition. Crystal could take her place while she is absent. By the way, if the baby doesn't happen to have a super power, tell Reed and Sue not to worry, they're not alone. I tried to get my niece to turn invisible or stretch her arm to get her bottle, or even to simply fly around the room. I'm afraid it's hopeless. But maybe I can coax a radioactive spider to bite her. Well, until honest Irving takes up baby-sitting for super heroes, make mine Marvel.

Barry Smith, 156 Hiscock Blvd.
Scarborough, Ont., Canada

We will, Barry, we will! And hang loose, lad — you won't have to hold your breath in frenzied expectation much longer. The big moment isn't far off! However, we hadn't considered changing our title to "FANTASTIC FIVE" — we had something more like "THE PLAYPEN BRIGADE" in mind! But, now that you've given us the idea — hmmmmm . . .

Dear Stan and Jack,

Having just finished F.F. #67, I must write to tell you my feelings. I think it's the best F.F. mag ever written. But, in a sense, the Fantastic Four didn't really win. They merely escaped the Beehive. Anyway, they were right to escape as they had to save Alicia. I wish you hadn't killed Hamilton, and, like many others, I think the Inhumans should have their own mag. Till later, face front!

Joe Brown, 118 Magnolia Ave.
Sea Girt, N. J.

We can't, Joey — Brand Echh keeps breathing down our necks! But gee whiz, venerated one — do the FF really *have* to win every encounter? Doesn't it make it somewhat more interesting if the endings aren't always stereotyped? Or are we just kidding ourselves? Let's hear some opinions out there from Marveldom Assembled — just to let us know we're not talking to ourselves!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I've recently read your latest issue of NOT BRAND ECHH and, at first, I laughed and thought it was great. But then I read the F.F., and I suddenly realized how degrading it is for you to spend years of effort turning out the greatest magazines of all, and then tear them down. Surely 12¢ is not worth so much that you have to perform sacrilege on the F.F.'s greatest battle against Dr. Doom? Or that the awesome yet tortured Silver Surfer should be insulted in such an animalistic fashion? Can it be that you don't care whether your characters seemed real and a part of natural life for years? Do you have a compulsion to prove to us that they are nothing but works of "art"? How can you bring down years of effort; how can you bring down the Marvel Age of Comics without so much as a care about how we feel? It is too bad that you think you can throw away every shred of realism, the very realism that puts Marvel above all competition, without so much as a shrug. If money is all that you think about, then put the efforts of not brand echh (it doesn't even deserve capital letters) into something constructive to Marvel, like a new mag. The Inhumans would be a good choice, or do you still intend to keep printing your slur on Marvel?"

Joe Schufino, 76 Lyon Ave.
E. Providence, R. I. 02914

Whew! This letter was probably intended for NOT BRAND ECHH, but it's too late to switch 'em around now. Actually, even though N.B.E. is one of the greatest publishing successes in recent years, we've received quite a few comments such as yours, Joey — letters taking us to task for poking fun at our own creations, such as the ever-lovin' FF. But, the way we see it, the more realistic anything is, the more it lends itself to satire. Cartoonists poke fun at our President, our Congressmen, and politicians of every persuasion, right? That doesn't make 'em less realistic — at least, we don't think it does. Anyhow, it's an interesting point, and we'd like to hear as many other opinions as possible. So sock it to us, Flame-Keepers — do you think it hurts the "image" of Reed Richards' rollickin' roustabouts to have them parodied in NOT BRAND ECHH? We'll clue you in on the final verdict later on — if someone reminds us!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Well, you did it again. That's 68 in a row. I'm talking, of course, about your victories with the Fantastic Four. Although there was no real fighting except for a couple of quarrels between friends and lovers, the story had movement. The mystery remained unsolved in the end but our heroes progressed toward the solution. The Thing's private section where he went for his lonesome walk was a masterpiece in itself. After his talk with that school teacher (I guess she was a school teacher) and that Irish policeman, I couldn't help but feel that Ben had finally found himself. The spat between Johnny and Crystal was, in its own way, delightful. As far as I know, it was their first — or at least the first that was fit to print. One thing though, I couldn't see the reason for it. Crystal said she was mad because Johnny left her sitting in the car for hours. So why didn't Johnny explain that he had been abducted? Remember the "Fzzzzt"? He didn't really have much choice. How come he didn't tell her that? She wouldn't have believed him but he could have tried. Oh, well. One last thing — why was the story titled, "What Lurks Behind the Beehive"? I looked all over and didn't see a bee anywhere.

Dean Crawford, 374 Burroughs Dr.
Buffalo, N. Y. 14226

That's why the title, Dean-o! *We* don't know what lurks there either! Anyway, Johnny probably could have explained his absence to Crys easy enough, but then

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

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we wouldn't have been able to show you their little spat, would we? So we took a bit of artistic liberty — which, as all Believers know, is a Marvel synonym for a bonehead mistake! Oh well . . .

Dear Stan and Jack,

I'll write as neatly as possible to save your eyes — we merry Marvelites are all heart! I noticed your reply in the letters page to Dennis Harrison's letter. Sheesh, if you guys have Tolkien's phone number, you're doing better than I thought. I'm glad to learn that my favorite group of nuts is full of Tolkien readers. Carry on, and may thy smials ever be warm and dry! You had asked what the "J" in Ben's name signified. I have reached the shocking conclusion that it doesn't stand for anything! It was just thrown in there to baffle Brand Echh, to create confusion in the merry Marvel style, to base a no-prize contest on, or maybe it was just Aunt Petunia's favorite letter! Anyway, that's my opinion. Well, 'nuff said. Just remember that Marvel is the best thing that's come out of Madison Avenue in years! Yours till the White Tree blooms no longer in Gondor!

Rosanne Wasserman, 3006 Hayfield Dr.
Louisville, Ky. 40205

That'll be the day, Rosy! Our "What Does The J Stand For?" Contest is still open, gal — and will remain open till all entries have been received and voted on. Which means, of course, that we forgot to pick a winner — and we're glad you reminded us — and now we'll have to dig out all those contest entries and re-read 'em sometime! Hooo boy!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Lovely is the vigil which I partake of each month waiting, hoping, praying for the next FANTASTIC FOUR. Yet, with each F.F. a renewed feeling of strength, vigor, and greatness is restored to my hungering soul. For between each hallowed cover, a key to universal power incarnate reveals itself before our orbs, as art and story each approbate a new issue to the ivy halls of miraculous Marvel. I found F.F. #66 to be equally fortuitous toward those before-mentioned qualities. But wait, there is always the appraisal for the continuation which promises to complete a triumvirate of great literature, for issue #66, between its hallowed covers,held the foundation for enjoyment that shall make the infinite cosmos itself beckon applause. Yet, what else is to be expected from Marvel?! Let us true believers see more of the Inhumans and the Silver Surfer. As I leave thine ivy halls, that yearning feeling is creeping over my soul again. I leave with one last statement — hang loose, Stan and Jack — I salute you!

Jeff Sipkoff, 2081 Bayberry Lane
York, Pa. 17403

Okay, trouble-maker! See? Jeff's epistle *proves* we don't only print flattering letters!!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I've been reading Marvel Comics for about three years. My first was F.F. #35 and I've bought every one up to the present issues. I'm in the sixth grade now and my teacher will let me read Marvel Comics in class on one condition — that I write down every word that I don't know the meaning of. Then I have to look up each word that I've written down in the dictionary, learn its definition and spelling, then be given a test on both. So please try not to use such big words in your comics!

Mike Skocko, 153 Holly Dr.
Watsonville, Cal. 95076

Wanna know something, Mike? If we hadda explain the spelling and the meaning of the words we use we'd have to give up our jobs and go legit! However, we think your teacher's idea is a groovy one, lad — although we're worried about just one little thing. What happens when you have to define the noun "Forbush"?

Dear Stan and Jack,

Alright, alright, we've had it — the time of truth has come. We Marine followers of the mighty Marvel Masterpieces demand action. What kind of action, you ask? We are referring to the greatest hero in comicdom history, none other than Bashful Ben Grimm — the Thing. We have sat back and watched with wonderment the cruel indignities our hero has suffered. Ben has seen Johnny get Crystal back and Reed and Sue get married. To top it off, you always find a way to have Ben suffer the most while fighting his foes. We've got to give Ben his due — at least he has a sense of humor. Are you ready for it? Now we're going to give it to ya!! We want to see more of Alicia. Everyone else's girl is in there except ol' Benny's. And if you don't . . . well, you know how we Marines get upset when we don't get our way. Also, we had better see more of blue-eyed Ben clobbering some nasty old villains. We're getting tired of seeing Reed or Match-head always finishing them off. Now we don't think that's too much to ask for, do you?? Thank you for your time, and we do hope you consider our, shall we say, proposals.

Dana Smith & Chris Dunny c/o L/Cpl. Dana Smith,
2234555 1st Mar. Div. 1st Bn. 5th Mar. H&S Co. M.T.
c/o FPO, San Francisco, Cal. 96602 (Viet Nam)

Hooo boy! If you were unhappy about Benjy's role in past issues, gyrenes — what'll you think when you see what's happening to him NOW? But before you start drawing up your battle plans, stay with us for a while longer — sooner or later something good HAS to happen to Blue Eyes! Anyway, we've really done him the best favor of all, haven't we? — We've saved him from belonging to Brand Echh! And if that's not enough, maybe the surprise subscription we're sending you will make us buddies again. (Or, Who Says This Isn't The Marvel Age of Bare-Faced Bribery?) Hang in there, heroes — and all the best from your batty Bullpen!

NEXT ISH: Well, we have to end it *sometime!* But if you think it's gonna be the type of finale you expect, forget it! The epoch-making yarn awaiting you is as daringly different as Stan and Jack can make it — and those two pussycats have never exactly been known for a lack of imagination! Naturally we can't reveal the surprises in store, or they'd strip us of our MMMS cards — but we can promise you that this one's gonna keep you on the edge of your chair! So, if you've been wondering how it will possibly end — if you've been waiting to see what new deadly danger is waiting in the shadows — or, if you just like looking at the pretty pictures — for the luvva Yancy Street, get FF #71 fast — it won't be around too long! And, till we meet again, think Marvel — it's better than worrying!

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Yes, YOU can join the thousands of successful Weider students who changed themselves from puny, underweight hat racks to muscle beach he-men! Your very first can of **Crash Weight No. 7** will start you toward up to **a pound a day** weight gains! AS THOUSANDS OF SUCCESSFUL USERS SAY, "YOU MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT"!

NOW, TODAY, PILE ON POUNDS F-A-S-T! No exercise! You simply drink on pounds! It's as simple as "A-B-C" !

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Larry Scott had a "fair" physique that weighed in at 165. He wanted extra pounds for a champion-caliber body, but extra-large meals only bloated him — and he stayed at 165. Then Larry discovered Crash Weight No. 7! His weight jumped from a too slender 165 to a muscular 215 pounds—and he went on to win Mr. America — Mr. Universe bodybuilding awards! LARRY GAINED 50 POUNDS!

BEFORE AFTER

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NORMAN ROCKWELL—America's most beloved artist. He is a founder and member of the Guiding Faculty of the Famous Artists Schools.

"We're looking for people who like to draw"

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Some of the People the Famous Artists Have Helped

Carl Koch was an 18 year old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—last year he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Stan Bowen, father of three children, was trapped in a dull, low-paying job. By studying with FAS he became a sought-after illustrator, has opened his own studio.

With Famous Artists training Rosemary Roberts was hired by a top department store as an artist—with a big chance to advance.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art workshop, does portraits.

A Plan to Help Others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

He suggested a new kind of art school—a home study art school—that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live.

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they created a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, they developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

The famous artists with the School are not surprised at the success of their students. The opportunities open to successful artists today are enormous. The School continually gets calls from all over the country asking for practical well-trained students—not geniuses—who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs. And practical, thorough training is what the School offers.

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To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

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